

REMARKS

Claim 15 has been amended to recite in step B that the distal end of the cannula body is advanced into and through a vessel "in the absence of a guidewire".

Ferguson U.S. Patent 5,637,08756 discloses the use of a stiffening stylet in the embodiments according to Figs. 7 and 8. However, in both embodiments a guidewire 22 is needed (see column 4, lines 37-8 of Ferguson).

Moreover, step D has been amended to recite conducting a fluid through a separate fluid inlet of the lumen which separate inlet is spaced from the stylet inlet (the fluid inlet 40 is spaced from the stylet inlet 42 in Fig. 4A). In Ferguson, none of the lumens has two inlets; each lumen has only one inlet. Accordingly, step D cannot be performed using Ferguson's device.

Accordingly, it is submitted that claim 15 distinguishes patentably over Ferguson. Incidentally, Applicant did not receive a copy of form PTO-892 listing the Ferguson reference.

In light of the foregoing, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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